IN THE CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. (Previously Presented) An electronic thermometer comprising:

an interchangeable, removable module having a temperature probe, said temperature probe having at least one thermistor adapted to be heated by a patient for generating a signal representative of the temperature of the patient, said removable module further having a memory storing predetermined calibration information specific to the at least one thermistor at the time of manufacture and for use by a portable temperature calculating unit, a temperature probe storage chamber and a probe cover storage chamber storing a supply of clean disposable covers corresponding to the temperature probe; and

the portable temperature calculating unit adapted for receiving the removable module and removably mating to said removable module, said temperature calculating unit being responsive to the predetermined calibration information for calibrating the at least one thermistor in the temperature probe of the removable module mated therewith and further responsive to the calibrated at least one thermistor signal for providing a measurement for the temperature of the patient.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) An electronic thermometer according to claim 1 wherein said memory is capable of electrical communication with said temperature calculating unit

when said removable module is mated to said temperature calculating unit.

4. (Previously Presented) An electronic thermometer according to claim 1 wherein said predetermined calibration information includes at least two calibration reference point parameters wherein each of said at least two calibration reference point parameters are taken at different temperatures during manufacture of said removable module.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing contamination of a removable temperature probe removably mated to a portable temperature calculating base unit comprising the steps of:

storing probe-identifying information specific to said removable temperature probe in a memory chip at the time of manufacture;

connecting said memory chip to said temperature probe;

storing said temperature probe in a removable module;

removably connecting said removable module <u>having a probe cover storage chamber</u> to a portable temperature calculating unit;

communicating said probe-identifying information from said memory chip to said portable temperature calculating unit; and

detecting, by said temperature calculating unit, the type of removable module mated to said temperature calculating unit, wherein detecting said removable module is based on the probe-identifying information stored in the memory chip.

6. - 7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) An electronic thermometer according to claim 1 wherein said memory is a 256 bit, 1-Wire, parasite-power, EEPROM.

9. (Previously Presented) An electronic thermometer according to claim 1 wherein said removable module includes means for storing probe-specific algorithm parameters.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) An electronic thermometer according to claim 1 wherein said memory is incorporated in a probe assembly of said removable module.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) An electronic thermometer according to claim 11 wherein said memory is disposed in a connector portion of a probe cable assembly of said removable module.

14. (Previously Presented) An electronic thermometer according to claim 1 wherein said removable module includes a probe assembly incorporated therewith, said probe assembly comprising a temperature probe, an electrical cable and a first connector component, and wherein said first connector component includes fluid resistant mating terminals providing electrical connections to said probe and said memory wherein said memory is incorporated within said probe assembly.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) An electronic thermometer according to claim 14 wherein said temperature calculating unit includes a header assembly incorporated therewith, said header assembly including header terminals in electrical connection with a microprocessor system, said header assembly matable with said first connector component of said removable module.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) An electronic thermometer according to claim 14 wherein said probe includes at least one thermistor electrically connected with said terminals, and wherein said calibration information includes resistance values of each of said at least one thermistor, said resistance values corresponding to at least two different reference temperatures.

19. (Previously Presented) An electronic thermometer according to claim 14 wherein said memory stores temperature probe identifying information.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) An electronic thermometer according to claim 5 wherein a unique identification number is a pre-programmed and validated EEPROM registration number.

22. - 28. (Canceled)